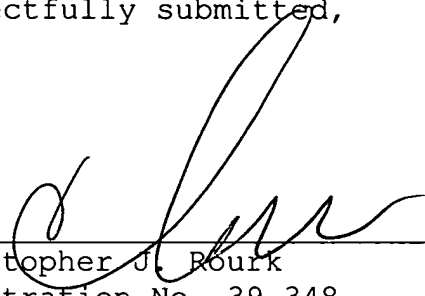


Applicants believe that the claims presented herein are distinguishable and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully solicit an early notice to the effect that all claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/20/02

By: 
Christopher J. Bourk
Registration No. 39,348
Attorney for Applicants
AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER
& FELD, L.L.P.
1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 4100
Dallas, TX 75201-4618
(214) 969-2800
(214) 969-4343 facsimile

20122014258200T